

**WOMAN STRUGGLE EXPERIENCED BY PATTY DAY IN
GILLIAN FLYNN'S "DARK PLACES" (2009): A MARXIST
FEMINIST THEORY**



**Submitted as a Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for getting Bachelor
Degree of Education in English Department**

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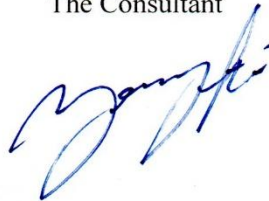
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DECLARATION

Herewith, I testify that there is no plagiarism in this publication article. There is no other work that has been submitted to obtain the bachelor degree of a university and as far as I concerned there is no opinion that has been written or published before, except the written reference which are referred in this paper and mentioned in the bibliography.

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WOMAN STRUGGLE EXPERIENCED BY PATTY DAY IN GILLIAN FLYNN'S "DARK PLACES" (2009): A MARXIST FEMINIST THEORY

Abstrak

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menyelidiki jenis-jenis perjuangan perempuan yang dialami oleh Patty Day in Dark Places oleh Gillian Flynn, penggambarannya dalam novel, dan alasan mengapa masalah tersebut digambarkan oleh penulis dalam novelnya. Dalam menganalisis Dark Places, penelitian ini menggunakan teori Marxis-feminis dan teori perjuangan yang disajikan oleh Marsam (2000). Jenis-jenis perjuangan perempuan yang coba ditekankan oleh Gillian Flynn adalah perjuangan dalam ekonomi seperti: kelas sosial, perjuangan kelas, dan akses ke kapasitas finansial. Dengan mengamati latar belakang kehidupan tokoh utama dan hubungan sosial yang memengaruhi tokoh utama dalam melakukan beberapa tindakan perjuangan, dapat disimpulkan bahwa penggambaran perjuangan perempuan dapat dilihat dalam bentuk diskriminasi yang terjadi pada tokoh utama. Dark Places memberikan gambaran yang jelas bahwa perjuangan wanita dalam novel adalah untuk memberi tahu pembaca, terutama pembaca wanita, untuk lebih sadar akan apa yang mungkin mereka alami sebagai istri dan ibu di masa depan.

Kata Kunci: perjuangan, diskriminasi, feminisme, teori marxis-feminis, kinnakee

Abstract

This research aims to investigate the kinds of woman struggle that experienced by Patty Day in Dark Places by Gillian Flynn, its depiction in the novel, and the reason why the issue is depicted by the author in her novel. In analyzing Dark Places, this research uses Marxist-feminist theory and theory of struggle that presented by Marsam (2000). The kinds of woman struggle that Gillian Flynn tries to emphasize are the struggle in economy such as: social class, class struggle, and the access to financial capacity. By observing the background of main character's life and social relation which influenced the main character in doing some act of struggle, it can be concluded that the depiction of woman struggle can be seen in the form of discrimination that happen to the main character. Dark Places gives a clear depiction that woman struggle in the novel is to tell the reader, especially women reader, to be more aware of what they might experience as a wife and a mother in the future.

Keywords: struggle, discrimination, feminism, Marxist-feminist theory, Kinnakee

1. INTRODUCTION

In this life, human beings have life needs that must be fulfilled, especially primary needs. Life needs here are divided into three needs. The first need is primary needs which include clothing, food, and shelter. The second is secondary needs, the needs of which are fulfilled after primary needs are met which include education, tourism or recreation. The third is tertiary needs, which include cars,

motorcycles, computers, gadgets that fulfill their needs after secondary needs are met. Nevertheless, sometimes not everyone lives in luck, and those who are unlucky may struggle very hard to fulfill their needs, especially for people who lives in poverty circle. People who live in poverty should work hard to feed their family, although they have to do it with the wrong way.

In this research, the researcher is interested in the issue about struggle. Struggle is not primarily physical, it can also be intellectual or psychological according to Adams and Balfour (in Muel, 2015). People are able to struggle for a better future also better environment that is valuable to them. Public are able to struggle against something unwanted such as scarcity, since there is something else they rate, and in this case is prosperity (Kaptein, 2017). In other hand, the researcher examined the opposite of prosperity that is argued by Kaptein on the theory above, because the issue that is raised by the researcher was examining the struggle of women in facing poverty. The poverty that is depicted in this novel is a struggle of a mother to support for her family's life, and the form of the struggle is a physical struggle.

Beside the issue about struggle, the researcher will use the feminist approach to get a deeper understanding of the women struggle that is depicted by Patty, as one of the character in the novel, whose struggle are also related to socialist or feminist-marxist which was conducted by Marx and Engels who discussed social inequalities experienced by women workers. Feminist theory believes that men and women must be equal, and feminist approach is a movement or a struggle of women to reject everything that is marginalized, demeaned both in economics and politics as well as social life. According to Jaggar and Rothenberg (1984), feminist theories are usually divided into four concerns. First, feminist theorists make some research to know the gendered personality of in fact all institutional relations. Second, femininity relationships are developed as connected to other injustice and contradictions and as problematical, in social life. Third, gender relationships are not seeing as permanent or natural too other than as sociocultural and chronological productions, topic toward reconstitution. Fourth, feminist theorists tend to be clearly political in their defense of social transform.

Marxist feminist is a sub-type of feminist ideology and the combination concepts of patriarchy with the key concepts of Marxism which focuses in the dismantling of capitalism as a way to liberate women (Niblock, 2014). Marxist feminist states that economic inequality, dependence, political confusion, and ultimately, unhealthy social relations between men and women are the root of women's oppression and it is also caused by their economic dependence in the family and in the work force and in the current social context and women are not oppressed by men or by sexism, but by the capital itself. Some authors adopt the theme or story about women who struggle in the economy life to support her family, and one of them is Gillian Flynn in her novel entitled "Dark Places".

One of the authors that creates novel about women struggle is Gillian Flynn. Gillian Flynn is an American writer and former television critic. She was born on February 24th, 1971. Gillian Flynn has published three novels and all of them have the same genre, the genre is thriller. The three novels are *Sharp Object*, *Dark Places* and *Gone Girl*. *Dark Places* and *Gone Girl* have already adapted to movie. Gillian Flynn also wrote novella entitled *The Grownup*. Flynn worked at U.S News & World after she graduated from Northwestern. She married with Brett Nolan in 2007 and they have two children. One of Flynn's works that is raised by the researcher to examine the struggle of a women is *Dark Places* was published in 2009. *Dark Places* is a novel that tell, about the story of a family who lives in poverty at Kinnakee, Kansas City and the researcher will focus on one of the main characters named Patty.

Patty is a mother of four children named Benjamin, Michelle, Libby, and Debby. Patty supports her family by working in a creditor's farm. This creditor made Patty's life even more gloomy, because if when the creditor collects debts held by Patty and Patty are unable to pay them on time, Patty must pay for it by satisfying the creditor's lust. This happened repeatedly and was carried out by the creditor because Patty's husband named Runner left their family for a long time. This struggle makes Patty increasingly depressed with her current situation. Day after day, their family condition is getting worse. This is what makes Patty tries to get money faster to support his family. This is also compounded by the condition of their son, Benjamin, who follows the satanic sect and he is dating Diondra, who

is the daughter of a rich merchant that frees Diondra to do anything that she wants.

The fact is that Patty decides to pay a contract killer to kill her because she wants to get compensation money. The compensation money is to save their agricultural land that will be taken over and save the lives of their children. The second truth is Ben didn't rape Krissi and other girls. Krissi just wants to show off to their friends and have bad consequences of doing that. The third truth is that Diondra kills Michelle because she knows that she is pregnant. Ben covered up the fact because he didn't want Diondra to give birth to their baby in prison and ended up into foster care. The fourth truth is that the contract killer also killed Debby because she sees him when he tries to kill her mother.

The connection between this novel and Marxist feminist theory and women struggle is the mother, Patty Day. Patty is the mother of the Day and Patty family is the only hope in the family to support her own family after Patty's husband Runner left them alone just to gamble and get drunk. This is where life is under pressure and poverty hits the Day family, Patty who always supports her family. On the other hand, Patty wants to commit suicide, unusual suicide in the hope of getting compensation money from the government and can be used to support his family later after he is gone, Patty wants an unusual death by hiring a contract killer, the executor is Calvin Diehl, and this is why poverty and the struggle of a mother is really portrayed in this novel, the author uses Marxist feminist theory because of the social stratification of the creditor who arbitrarily performs Patty for debt purposes.

The reason why researcher chooses this novel because *Dark Places* is a mystery thriller novel published in 2009 that is successful enough by Gillian Flynn after *Sharp Objects* novel on 2006 and before her most successful novel that reaches 4.0 ratings on goodreads.com *Gone Girl* novel on 2012. Gillian always success in creating the mystery or thriller genre novel and reaches about 4 stars average on goodreads.com. The researcher raises women struggle as the issues on *Dark Places* novel. Gillian Flynn is famous and smart novelist, especially through her novel, she depicts about the poverty, women struggle, Patty the mother of the family who struggling all alone to fed her family, and have

women struggle issues in this situation. Also the researcher is interested from the women struggle and poverty which is done by Patty Day. Based on Marxist feminist perspective Patty is in trouble to get some compensation from government for her family, and the solution from her is committing suicide by rent a professional killer Calvin Diehl.

2. METHOD

The type of the study in this research paper is the study of literature (literary study). The purposes of this study are to find the relation of this literary work with the society that is devoted to the same as the title to discuss women struggle and also indicators in poverty itself and find the relation between the author and his great work. In this paper, researcher analyzes the novel using qualitative methods, because on analyzing this novel researcher does not need numerical data. According to Crossman (2017) qualitative research is type of social science research that collects and works with non-numerical data and in order to seek to interpret meaning from the data itself that can helps us understanding social life through the study of targeted populations or places. The qualitative research is usually in descriptive form. The type of the data in this research is qualitative data. According to Miles and Huberman (1994), qualitative data is data in the form of words of extended text. The words themselves are based on documents. Meanwhile, the data sources of this study are divided into two as follows: 1. Primary source is from the novel by Gillian Flynn entitled *Dark Places*. The writer will use its printed book in Bahasa and its e-book in English. 2. Secondary sources are from journal articles on the internet and books related to the issue of this study, that is, women struggle and the object that the writer wants to examine in *Dark Places* novel by Gillian Flynn. In this study, the researcher uses review on a sources as the method to collect the data. The researcher observes the object of the study by observing the plot of the story, the characterization, and also the places that depicted in the novel. Moreover, the researcher first reads the novel several times and underlines the important things in the novel such as the dialogues and the narration that consist of the information that can support and develop the research. Afterwards, the researcher selects the data collected that support the

problem that is being discussed above. The collected data was analyzed descriptively by using qualitative method. This analysis focused on finding the women struggle which was described in *Dark Places*. The first step was defining the problem that dealt with the purpose of the study. The second step was the data analyzed with characteristic that correlated with the issue.

3. FINDING AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Finding of The Research

The research findings of this research are divided into three parts which aim at explaining: the main character's background, social class, and social relation from the main character. Those parts will give description in order to solve the material object that are related to the research question in early chapter, chapter one. The following are the information of the research data which are found through the novel.

First research findings on this paper is the main character's background. Patty Day as the main character in the past is a single mother with a deadbeat ex-husband, four kids, and a farm. Benjamin, Michelle, Debby and the last is Libby Day. Life is hard, and Patty needs to survive. She lives in a place far-far away from the urban society, Kinnakee, Kansas City. She always worried about everything especially with her four kids, and Patty's depressed which can be proven in the quotation below:

Today I won't yell, I won't cry, I won't clench up
into a ball like I am waiting for a blow to level me. I
will enjoy today. (Flynn, 2009, p.18)

The datum above shows that she feels so depressed and always worried about her day, she is not ready to accept her life, always worrying about her life.

According to Marx modern society classified in only two classes of people there are the bourgeoisie and the proletariat. Bourgeoisie class are the owners of the means of production like the business, landlord of the factories, the factories itself and also the equipment needed owner to produce wealth. And the proletariat are the workers, slaves, the exploited ones by the bourgeoisie to increase profits. Marx argued that the analysis of class structures, social class and changes in those structures are key to understanding capitalism and other social systems or modes

of production. In the *Communist Manifesto* Marx and Engels said that the history of all hitherto existing society is the history of class struggles. (Bottomore, 1971, p. 75). Through the citation from Marx, Patty Day are the worker for her own farm, and got exploited by the creditor because of the debt that she cannot afford and can be proven by this citation below:

“Weeeee, I’m afraid, are out of options. I’ve held them off for six months longer than they should’ve been held off. I really put my job on the line. Farm girl.” He smiled at her, his hands clasped on his knees. She wanted to scratch him. (Flynn, 2009, p.47)

From the excerpt above Patty was exploited just to please the creditor’s lust every week, and she does not know what to do except pleasing the creditor. The datum shows the fact that Patty’s social class is different with the creditor, and the creditor will always take advantages from the situation.

Weber (1978) stated that social relation is a mutual orientation which is based from the action of each individual to others that can be classified into hostility, conflict, sexual attraction, economic change and also friendship. Term of social relation itself can be defined as the action that happened when there are an interaction between two individuals or parties in the society. While according to Muncha (2003) social relation can be shaped to conflict which means the action that carried out by individuals or person against resistance to other group. Therefore, social relation give influence to Patty as the main character in doing several act of struggle against the creditor also the poverty that happened by Patty Day in the *Dark Places* novel. Diane Krause is Patty’s older sister and she is the financial angel of Day family, every month she always brings groceries for Patty and her four kids because Diane realized that Patty cannot afford monthly needs to support her family needs. She is a kind women, and Diane is a savior who is always eagerly awaited by the children can be described in the quotation:

When she opened the door, her sister was already unpacking three grocery loads of canned foods and sending the girls out to her car for the rest. Patty had come to associate the smell of brown paper bags with Diane, she’d been bringing them food for so long. That was the perfect example of the fall-short

life Patty had made: She lived on a farm but never had enough to eat. (Flynn, 2009, p.68)

The quotation above shows the evidence that Diane always taken care of Patty's child, and Patty is always waiting for Diane's arrival to help ease the financial problems that exist in her family now, even her children were always happier when they saw her aunt come to bring food. Even Diane do not know about the problems in Patty's family, she always asking her about anything in past few days.

Runner is an ex-husband of Patty's, they meet at the high school. They were a great friend in the past, always together and will facing this cruel world by together. It is all just a dream, a big dream for Patty Day who want to live peacefully and do not realize that Runner is a liar. Patty always trust Runner until Runner left Patty with their four children and start a new life with another woman. The evidence that shows Runner left Patty with their four children are illustrated in the quotation:

Her gentle high school boyfriend; Runner, the hotshot who stole her from her gentle high school boyfriend and left her with four (wonderful) children; and a guy she dated for a few months some-where in the years after Runner left. (Flynn, 2009, p.95)

The datum above shows that Runner is a great potential partner at first, but not for her whole life and family. Runner start to turned back and left Patty and their four children, before leaving Runner staring his children and swearing Patty in front of them with a bad words:

He turned, and his jacket brushed a cocoa packet on to the floor, scattering more brown powder at his feet. "Bye girls, your mom's ... a BITCH!" He kicked one of the tall kitchen chairs over and it cart-wheeled into the living room. (Flynn, 2009, p.149)

The quotation above shows that Runner is a real deadbeat ex-husband for Patty, coming just for a money, and leaving her with no words and scaring all of the family members. He is not a good dad, maybe will not be a good dad until his new girlfriend Piggy Bannion change him into something.

Calvin Diehl was once a farmer, but he was also in debt by the creditor and the only way for the farmers the peasantry in Kinnakee was suicide. In fact it was all a murder that was only wrapped up by suicide, so that the Kansas City government believed about the murder that happened and gave compensation money to help affected families. Calvin Diehl was the last choice because he was the only savior who could help Patty to solve the financial problems she was having. The first relation between Patty and Calvin are by phone that can be seen from the quotation below:

CALVIN : "That's why I phoned,"
CALVIN : "I heard about Ben. I hadn't been going to phone. Before. But. I think I can help. I don't know if you'll want it. But I have an option."
PATTY : "An option for Ben?"
CALVIN : "A way to help Ben. With legal costs. What you're facing, you're going to need a bundle."
PATTY : "I thought we were out of options,"
CALVIN : "Not entirely."

(Flynn, 2009, p. 170)

Calvin and Patty would not meet at the farm nor the town, the only safest place for their meeting is in Rural Route 5 picnic station and park. Where pedestrians even police would not come to the park at 11p.m just for patrolling.

However at 2.00a.m but the murder plan did not go smoothly, Patty only prepared a quarter of the money that should have been prepared by her for 2000 dollars. Debby who understands the situation of his sister Michelle will be killed by Diondra running to meet Patty asking for help. Calvin was even more confused because this is not what was in the agreement they made earlier, and in the end Debby was killed by Calvin Diehl with an axe. The last data can be shown in the quotation below:

She's screaming Run, Run, Run, and turning the corner to see Debby lying on the floor with wings of blood. It's OK, baby, you're OK, the knife sliding out of Patty's chest and rattling down onto the floor, blood pulsing out of her more quickly. (Flynn, 2009, p.208-209)

The datum above shows the social relation between Patty and Calvin Diehl who ended up badly. Patty, Michelle, and Debby they are all dead that night.

3.2 Discussion

In this discussion section, the researcher presents the kind of woman struggle in facing economic issue in Kinnakee, Kansas City based on the data that has been explained in the research findings. The kind of woman struggle experienced by the main character in the novel:

According to Marshall, in Blaug (2018) stated that economics is a study of mankind in the ordinary business of life and it examines that between part of individual and social action is connected with the attainment and with the use of the material requisites of wellbeing. Economics is about making some choices in life, economics is not just about money, it is about weighting different choices. Some of those important choices involve money, but most do not.

In the finding showed that, the main character has some economic problems, and it can be seen when she showed her actions in taking a role to feed her family. The main character struggling all alone just to help her four children to get a better life. From the data, Patty's struggle are motivated and influenced by people around her, who discriminate her and support her to keep the farm like Diane Krause. In the end, the main character decide to end her life to get some compensation money from the government by hire a contract killer Calvin Diehl to kill her. Moreover based on the concept of Marxist feminist theory, it can be concluded that struggle in economy can bringing up conflict or a woman struggle in order to exiting the poverty circle which is depicted on the novel itself.

Social class is a group of people within a society who possess the same socioeconomic status. Besides being important in social theory, the concept of class as a collection of individuals sharing similar economic circumstances has been widely used in censuses and in studies of social mobility. Manstead (2018) stated in Marxist terms, class is defined objectively in terms of one's relationship to the means of production. Bourgeoisie are the owner of the means of production. Proletariat are people who belongs as a labor, there is a clear qualitative difference between the two classes. Bourgeoisie class are the owners of the means of production like the business, landlord of the factories, the factories itself and also the equipment needed owner to produce wealth. The proletariat are the workers, slaves, the exploited ones by the bourgeoisie to increase profits. He also argued

that the analysis of class structures, social class and changes in those structures are key to understanding capitalism and other social systems or modes of production.

In the *Dark Places*, the researcher found one of the social classes that is postulated by Marx. The class is proletariat class. It can be seen from the finding below:

“Patty, the only way to fix this is money. Now. If you want to keep this place. I’m talking borrow, beg, or steal. I’m saying time is over for pride. So: How badly do you want this farm?” (Flynn, 2009, p.47).

From the data above, the main character’s social class is in proletariat, Patty Day who works on her farm and got exploited by the creditor. From the findings, the main character social class is defined by the daily life of herself, the strongest evidence is when the main character comes to Cates house, Patty Day got discriminated by the mother of Krissi Cates in front of her old friend. Mother of Krissi Cates insulting the main character verbally and the main character reaction is just quite. The social relation between Patty Day and the Cates family are revealed the social status of the main character.

Day (2001) stated that Class is based on heredity as the only factor to divide people into social group, there are the nobility, clergy and commoners. Class divisions have been attributed to productive relations, market access, a status hierarchy, or culture. Often it seems that they are hard to tell apart from other forms of division: racial, gendered, regional, ethnic, religious, and so forth. Class societies can be viewed as stable or conflict ridden. Classes are subject to historical tendency. This tendency leads to the division of society into two great antagonistic classes. The statement of the historical tendency of class struggles thus establishes the statement of the polarization of struggles between the bourgeoisie and the proletariat. According to Marx in Martha’s research (2011), class struggle is the continual conflict between the capitalist and working classes for economic and political power. It is also called class war.

There are many modes of class struggle practiced by people of lower class to reach higher social class. The most common ways era class struggle through violence, proletarian revolution, and dictatorship of proletariat (Wilczynski, 1984). In relation to this, the researcher found that main character is struggling to keep the farm belongs to her. It can be seen in the following finding:

“Patty, the only way to fix this is money. Now. If you want to keep this place. I’m talking borrow, beg, or steal.” (Flynn, 2009, p.47)

In other hands, the creditor still want to exploit the farm and the main character’s life. The main character struggle can be seen from the finding when the creditor comes to Patty’s house just to releasing his lust. It is a violence, sexual abuse that has done by the bourgeoisie. Tuderu (2008) stated that Karl Marx focuses on the social class concept. It also discusses to what extent that the Marx’s concept of social class struggle is capable to provide a way out to the proletariats, to free themselves from the chains of cruelty, violence and alienation in the capitalist system. It can be concluded that class struggle is a collective reaction from the laborer about the unfair or exploit action from the capitalist. These actions take in the low of low wage, the time working that so long and hard punishment to laborers who break the law. Not only hard punishment because of breaking the law, the main character struggle is in sexual abusive to herself.

According to Marson and Hebert (2008), financial capacity is a medical-legal construct that shows or represents the ability to independently manage one’s financial affairs in a manner consistent with personal self-interest and values. Financial capacity, not only involves on performance skills (paying bills, completing a check register accurately, counting coins/currency accurately), but also judgment skills that optimize the financial self-interest and promote independence, and values that guide personal financial choices. Due to differences in background and experience, financial experience and skills can vary widely among cognitively normal individuals and are associated with factors of education and socioeconomic status. In relation to this, the research finding below show that the main character is struggling to access to the financial capacity that harassed by her ex-husband:

“Come on, Patty, why you going to make me beg? I’m in a real jam here. It’s life or death stuff. I got to get the hell out of Dodge. You know I wouldn’t be asking otherwise. Like, I might be killed tonight if I can’t scrape up some money. Just give me \$800.” (Flynn, 2009, p.148)

Socioeconomic status of the main character shows that she is in a circle of poverty and she had to breakthrough from the pain of poverty. Through this findings the main character feel depressed, disappointed with her life and anger. In the *Second Sex*, Beauvoir (1953) affirmed that women and men is different. Men are strong and tough physically and emotionally than women. Women has sensitive emotional feeling towards what is happening from her surroundings. In relation with struggle, these struggle on access to financial capacity causes the main character has mixed feelings and realize that suicide is only the best way to help her family. In consequence, those feelings growing up and bringing her to decide that she should hire a contract killer to kill her, to get some compensation money from the government. Therefore, from the discussion can be seen that access to financial capacity can make the struggle factor appeared such as anger, and give up on her life.

Researcher discusses about how struggle are reflected based on the data that has been classified in the findings of the research. The analysis based on background of main character's life and social relation which influenced her in doing some act of struggle. In relation to this, the research finding below showed that the main character struggle comes from her situation in facing a poverty:

“Weeeee, I’m afraid, are out of options. I’ve held them off for six months longer than they should’ve been held off. I really put my job on the line. Farm girl.” He smiled at her, his hands clasped on his knees. She wanted to scratch him. (Flynn, 2009, p.47)

Recognizing that the creditor has different view towards the situation, especially for the main character. The creditor and Runner Day discrimination makes Patty Day become suffered. Through the novel Patty as a mother of four children from Kinnakee, Kansas City experienced the suffering, struggle and being discriminate by the creditor and Runner Day her ex-husband. Discrimination according to Pager and Shepherd (2008) it is an unequal treatment of person or group of society based on their ethnicity, gender, age, and race. It can be seen in the data when Patty Day defend herself and the family. The discrimination lead the main character in doing act of struggle to get liberation and freedom.

In the novel, Flynn also wants to describe the poverty, pain, struggle, sadness, and thriller that experienced by a mother with four children. Struggle sometimes appeared through the economic situation of a family and influenced with their surroundings. Pallardy (2015) stated although some readers characterized Flynn's work as misogynistic, Flynn countered that she was a feminist and that her characters in the novel simply demonstrated that hatred and violence were not the sole preserve of men. The reason why the author depicted woman struggle in the novel are, to tell the reader, especially women reader, to be more aware of what they might experience as a wife and a mother in the future. Moreover, as a women, struggling in society, class, economy and politic must be careful. Flynn depicting a woman struggle not to discriminate or demean a women, the reason is to remind women to always struggle cautiously.

4. CONCLUSION

By conducting the research in the Dark Places novel written by Gillian Flynn using a Marxist feminist theory, the researcher concluded that main character's struggle in the novel are affected and motivated by her surroundings such as family, debt, in need for food, and social condition. Furthermore, struggle in economy, social class, class struggle, human discrimination, and access to financial capacity lead the main character in doing act of struggle. Kinnakee, Kansas City 1985, Kinnakee refers to itself as "the heart of America", in other hands Gillian reminds us that name could not be proven as-well and Gillian said that Kinnakee is an American Heartless-Land. Since the novel background in 1985 during the crisis monetary it can be entirely argued that many women, farms, and family are discriminated and degraded in the society. Besides that, the background is set during the Panicking Satan Sect and Heavy Metal music who lead the chaos in Kinnakee, teenagers are out of control by killing some animals, and worship satan which makes Kinnakee worst and worst.

The novel Dark Places also can be seen as the way author, Gillian Flynn in presenting or depicting the woman struggle during chaos in Kinnakee, Kansas City. There are some women who live in poverty, pain, and suffering because of the cruelty from this era. Many of these women from a peasantry family, farmer,

worker or labor. Moreover, they are being discriminated, exploited and get an unequal treatment which make them become oppressed. The novel also gives the reader awareness about how woman oppression and struggle the situation in several ways. These women struggle resist the circle of poverty because the presence of injustice situation, unequal treatment, discrimination, exploitation during the era in order to claim their freedom, rights, and liberation.

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